



# *The Heterodyne*

**Bulletin of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association  
An Affiliated Club of the American Radio Relay League**

**West Valley Amateur Radio Association, W6PIY — <http://www.wvara.org>  
P.O. Box 6544  
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**March 2009**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., March 18, 2009 at the American Red Cross, 2731 North First Street at Plumeria (between Trimble and Montague Expressway) in San José.  
**Speaker:** Grant Willner, AD6RE — **Subject:** "The Pacific Maritime Mobile Net"

**About Our Program and Speaker.** Are you a mariner who travels offshore on the "high seas"? Are you aware that in the event of an emergency, when you call for assistance using your normal marine communication gear, your radio transmissions may or may not be readily heard? Do you really want to take this risk with the lives of your loved ones and friends on board, in addition to placing your property at risk?

If you have an amateur HF radio on board, in an emergency your message for assistance will be heard by many licensed amateur radio operators — especially by amateur radio operators participating in the Amateur Radio Maritime Mobile Service Net and the Amateur Radio Pacific Seafarers Net.

How does amateur radio support mariners on the high seas? Our speaker, WVARA Vice President Grant Willner, AD6RE will explain to us how amateur radio can:

- Perform phone patches between a ship and shore communicators
- Enable family members at home to track their ship-board family using their last check-in via 20 Meters radio
- Provide search and rescue capabilities anywhere in the world where mariners are located

He will show printouts of actual situations involving amateur radio and individuals on the high seas in any number of emergency scenarios.

Grant was first licensed in 1990 as KC6KNH. He upgraded to Technician class and received the call sign N6ZEZ. When he upgraded to Amateur Extra class, he received his current call sign, AD6RE. Grant received his first B.S. degree in Electronics Engineering Technology in 1978 from California Polytechnic State University; a second B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from San José State University in 1995; and a third B.S. degree with Great Distinction in Biomedical Engineering Technology from DeVry University in 2007. He is currently participating with the City of Newark's "CERT/ARES" program, and seeking to be re-certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

**Sequoia Yacht Club Presentation, April 3, 2009**— On Friday, April 3 at 7:30 pm at the Coyote Point Yacht Club, 1820 Coyote Point Dr., San Mateo, CA 94401, the West Valley Amateur Radio Association in conjunction with the Sequoia Yacht Club will present a talk on the topic of “The Pacific Maritime Mobile Service Net”, and how it benefits the ocean-going mariner on the “high seas”. See [www.cpyc.com](http://www.cpyc.com) for directions to the yacht club. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to [ad6re@arrl.net](mailto:ad6re@arrl.net) so that an accurate headcount may be given to those making preparations for the event.

Sequoia Yacht Club Amateur Radio Demonstration, April 4, 2009 — Are you curious? Would you like to know more? In celebration of the Sequoia Yacht Club's opening day on San Francisco Bay, on Saturday, April 4 members of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association will have a demonstration HF station outside of the Sequoia Yacht Club's clubhouse for visitors to listen to amateur radio communications. See [www.sequoiayc.org](http://www.sequoiayc.org) for directions to the yacht club.

**RadioFest 2009: March 7– 8:** The ARRL Santa Clara Valley section convention and RadioFest 2009 were held at the Moose Lodge in Seaside recently. There were vendors, talks, license examinations, a flea market, a dinner, and other activities. The parking lot was full of vehicles with ham radio license plates, and at least one SUV from VE7-land was observed. Here are some photos from the two-day event:



**International DX Convention: April 17-19:** located at the airport Holiday Inn, Visalia, California. Sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC), this event is the premier DX gathering in the world and participants travel from dozens of countries to attend. For more information on the event, see <http://dxconvention.org>. For more information on the Northern California DX Club, see <http://ncdxc.org>.

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**Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) Contest Academy, April 17:** will occur during the first day of the International DX Convention. Contest Academy will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, 1 to 5 p.m. The cost will be \$10 to attend, which includes a contest resource kit.

Inspired by a strong growing interest in contesting at the International DX Convention, the Northern California Contest Club will provide will be a valuable learning experience for attendees. The primary goal will be to cover the basics of contesting, drawing from NCCC's 38-year reputation as a recognized participant and leader in amateur radio contesting. Program topics will be of interest to all participants, and will be presented by some of NCCC's most experienced contesters.

You can read more about the Contest Academy at : [http://dxconvention.org/?page\\_id=204](http://dxconvention.org/?page_id=204)

**WVARA Raffles, January 21 and February 18, 2009:** The club has instituted a "member raffle" to encourage members to renew their memberships promptly. There are two raffles, one at the January meeting and another at the February meeting. Participation in the raffle is limited to those who have currently active memberships — those who have paid their dues!

On January 21, Bill Rainey, K6WAR won a 2009 NARCC Repeater Directory and Chuck Kamas, AD6CL won a DX Engineering baseball cap. Congratulations!

On February 18, Bill Rainey, K6WAR won a 2008 ARRL Handbook; Tony Bamberger, N6TYG won a DBJ-1 dual-band VHF J-pole antenna; and Eben Haber, K6EBN won a DBJ -2 dual-band portable VHF J-pole antenna.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who became members in the first sixth of the year! Membership dues payments provide the club with a significant part of its yearly operating funds. — Scott Emery, AD6RY, President

**Boy Scouts of America Updates Radio Merit Badge Requirements—** The new Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Radio Merit Badge Pamphlet includes color pictures and updated charts and text. The Boy Scouts of America have updated the requirements needed to earn the Radio merit badge. The new requirements became effective with the publication of Boy Scout Requirements 2009. While no new content has been added to the program, the new merit badge pamphlet features lots of new information — including color pictures and updated charts and text — that reflects the changes in amateur radio since the last pamphlet update in 2002. Approximately 4000 Radio merit badges are earned each year.

According to ARRL ad hoc Scouting Committee member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new Radio Merit Badge pamphlet had been in the works for some time. "BSA has been replacing all merit badge pamphlets with new booklets using color graphics and more modern presentations," he said. "With attractive color photos and clear text explanations of the requirements, the new merit badge pamphlet is a pleasure for the Scouts to read. The new text is due in large part to the efforts of longtime Radio merit badge counselor and K2BSA National Jamboree staff member Mike Brown, WB2JWD.

Wolfgang said that the requirements for the badge have been shifted around: "The old Part 4 of Requirement 7(b), Broadcast Radio, was pulled out and placed in the main body of the requirements as Requirement 8. In addition, the old Requirement 8 (to visit a radio installation and discuss what types of equipment, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station) was moved up to Requirement 7, so that now the three options appear as Requirement 9. The main result is one additional full requirement."

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ARRL Rocky Mountain Division director and chairman of the League's ad hoc Scouting Committee Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, called the Radio Merit Badge "a perfect avenue to introduce Scouts to the wonderful world of ham radio. Ham clubs across the nation should locate a local Boy Scout troop, secure permission from its scoutmaster and/or committee to teach the merit badge and deliver an exceptional Radio merit badge class. What the boys — and their leaders and parents — will learn in the process is a fair amount of what is part of the Technician class license exam, so the next logical step after a merit badge class is an all-out recruiting effort to get that troop involved in amateur radio. Scouts will meet new friends and have a great way of communicating while in transit to and from the field, as well as additional peace of mind through an effective means of emergency communications while in the backcountry."

Additional information — which includes the new 2009 requirements — can be found on the web at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/24/10667/?nc=1>



**ICQ Podcast: Free, for Ham's by Hams** — A podcast is an audio file that has been compressed into MP3 digital format. It can then be played on a MP3 player, a computer, or some CD players that can read this format direct from a disc.

ICQ Podcast is a fortnightly amateur radio podcast. Its aim is to help new entrants to the hobby gain the technical knowledge needed to obtain an amateur radio license, and also providing experienced operators with news, reviews, opinions, upcoming events, features and reports. The podcast is recorded for amateurs and includes amateurs.

Previous episodes have covered topics including: operating on vacation in Cyprus; an introduction to building an 80M SSB kit; microphone modifications; and new product reviews. We have also hosted roundtable discussions reviewing 2008 for ham radio and a novice roundtable. If you are interested in contributing to the podcast, please send an e-mail message to: [info@icqpodcast.com](mailto:info@icqpodcast.com). If you would like to find out more, please visit the website at <http://www.icqpodcast.com> or search iTunes for "icqpodcast".

**WVARA Tuesday Night Net Check-ins — X = checked in; # = net control.**

Call Sign	Name	Feb. 10, 2009	Feb. 17, 2009	Feb. 24, 2009	Mar. 3, 2009
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X	X	X
AD6YU	Loren	X	X #		X #
K1DOD	Jon				X
K6EBN	Eben			X	
K6QFO	Mike				
K6WAR	Bill	X	X	X	
KD6VOR	Marv	X	X	X	X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	
KF6UTE	Casey	X		X	
KG6MYR	Harry				
KG6SEA	Tom	X			
KK6VF	Kevin	X #	X	X #	X
N6IPS	Roy	X	X		
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X
W6RPH	Doug			X	
W6TQG	Phil				X
W6ZZZ	Marc	X			X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X

**Club Net:** Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. on our club repeaters:

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)			
Band	MHz	PL	Status
6 Meters	52.580-	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96-	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2-	100 Hz	Operating

**Marc Ziegler, W6ZZZ SK**— It is with great sadness that I report that Marc Ziegler W6ZZZ had a devastating brain hemorrhage Wednesday night March 4, 2009 . On Friday, March 6, 2009 Marc was declared brain dead by two physicians and entered into the organ donation process. His body will be kept functioning artificially until detailed tests are completed and appropriate matching recipients can be identified. A memorial service will be held for Marc once the warm weather returns, possibly in June. —Victor S. Linderholm, AE6ID

John Marcus Ziegler, W6ZZZ, was an active member of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA), and held leadership positions in the club. He served as vice president of the club during the 2008 calendar year. An avid DXer, contester, and enthusiastic participant in Field Day, Marc was also active in the Northern California Contest Club, the Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club, and the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club. He was always glad to mentor newcomers to the hobby, and QSLed 100%. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him in amateur radio here in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, California, and internationally.

**Pacificon 2009 and EMMCOMMWEST, Reno, NV, May 1— 3, Circus Circus Hotel:**

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club has decided not to sponsor Pacificon 2009. The club has orchestrated the convention since 1992, and made its decision because of the current economic downturn and unsuccessful negotiations with the host hotel. The organizers of EMMCOMMWEST, the second largest amateur radio convention in the ARRL Pacific Division, have accepted the challenge of staging a joint event featuring both EMMCOMMWEST and Pacificon. The keynote speaker will be Steven R. Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor at ARRL headquarters. The banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, recently retired from FCC amateur radio rules enforcement. For more information about the convention, see [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org)

**Maker Faire, San Carlos, CA, May 30– 31** — Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ will be in charge of the amateur radio demonstration.

**ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, May 26— 29, Roswell, NM—**

Six sessions will be offered again this year, the earliest in Roswell, New Mexico, May 26–29. The details of all the workshop dates, locations, and application deadlines are in a brochure that can be downloaded from [www.arrl.org/ti](http://www.arrl.org/ti) . Questions may be sent to Mark Spencer, WA8SME, ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, 774 Eastside Rd., Coleville, CA 96107, [mspencer@arrl.org](mailto:mspencer@arrl.org) , or by telephone at 530-495-9150.

**Swap Meets —**

Livermore SWAP  
Robertson Park, Livermore  
1st Sunday of the month, March through November

Info at: <http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html> Flyer at:  
<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swapbrochure.pdf>

ASVARO Electronics Flea Market  
De Anza College, Cupertino  
2nd Saturday of the month, March through October

Info at: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/> Flyer at:  
<http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/efm-flyer.pdf>

**West Valley Amateur Radio Association**

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**STAMP**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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